

What is claimed is:

1. A system for efficient streaming of media content from a client content provider to individual Internet destinations, comprising:

5 an Internet-connected base server for job initialization and tracking;

and

a matrix of Internet-connected node servers, at least some of which are to receive the streaming media content;

10 characterized in that the client, the base station and the node servers each execute cooperative software, wherein a client requests a job session of the base server, specifying dimensions of the job, and the base server creates a unique job object defining the job, receives the streaming content from the client, governs distribution of the streaming content to the matrix of node servers according to the job object, and notifies the client content provider of progress and completion.

15 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the base server specifies a server list of all servers to which media content is to be streamed as a part of the job object created.

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3. The system of claim 1 wherein, following creation of a job object at the base server, the base server transmits the job object to at least a first one of the node servers, and then streams the job content to the first node server

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4. The system of claim 3 wherein the base server transmits the job object to plural ones of the node servers, and streams the job content to the plural node servers.

5. The system of claim 3 wherein the first node server, having received the job object, becomes a source server, and transmits the job object and streams the job content to further ones of the node servers.

5      6. The system of claim 5 wherein a first node server having the job object attempts to stream the job content to a second node server already receiving streaming job content from a third node server, and the second node server selects between the first and third node servers for receiving streaming job content according to which of the first and third node servers can transmit at a higher rate.

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15      7. The system of claim 1 wherein the client content provider, having established a first job object at the base server and having begun streaming job content to the base server, establishes a second job object at the base server for distributing second streamed job content to the node servers.

20      8. The system of claim 1 further comprising plural client content providers, wherein the base server establishes job objects for individual ones of the plural client content providers and streams job content for plural job objects to plural downstream nodes simultaneously.

25      9. The system of claim 1 wherein, as each node server completes a job, notification of completion is passed to the base server, which updates the client content provider of progress made..

10. The system of claim 9 wherein, after all node servers have completed a job and have reported to the base server, the base server closes the

associated job object and updates the client content provider associated with the job object.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the base server tracks completion of the

5 job by the matrix of node servers, and if the job is not completed by all node servers within a set time, the base server queries the node server or servers failing to complete.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the base server, receiving no response

10 from a node server, attempts to repair the node server not responding.

13. A method for efficient streaming of media content from a client content provider to individual Internet destinations, comprising steps of:

(a) requesting, by the client content provider of a base server,

15 creation of a job object defining the job by dimensions supplied by the client content provider;

(b) creation, by the base server, the job object requested;

(c) receiving, by the base server, streaming job content from the client content provider according to the job object;

20 (d) distributing, by the base server, the job object and streaming job content to individual ones of plural node servers at the Internet destinations; and

(e) notifying the client content provider, by the base server, of progress and completion of the job according to the job object.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein, in step (b), the base server specifies a server list of all servers to which media content is to be streamed as a part of the job object created.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein, in step (d) following creation of a job object at the base server, the base server transmits the job object to at least a first one of the node servers, and then streams the job content to the first  
5 node server

16. The method of claim 15 wherein, in step (d), the base server transmits the job object to plural ones of the node servers, and streams the job content to the plural node servers.

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17. The method of claim 15 further comprising a step for the first node server, having received the job object, becomes a source server, and transmits the job object and streams the job content to further ones of the node servers.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein a first node server having the job object attempts to stream the job content to a second node server already receiving streaming job content from a third node server, and further comprising a step for the second node server selecting between the first and third node servers for receiving streaming job content according to which of the first and third node servers can transmit at a higher rate.

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19. The method of claim 13 further comprising steps for the client content provider, having established a first job object at the base server and having begun streaming job content to the base server, establishing a second job object at the base server for distributing second streamed job content to the node servers.

20. The method of claim 13 further comprising plural client content providers, and further comprising steps for the base server establishing job objects for individual ones of the plural client content providers and streaming job content for plural job objects to plural downstream nodes simultaneously.

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21. The method of claim 13 further comprising steps for notification of completion by each node server associated with a job as each node server completes the job being passed to the base server, and the base server updating the client content provider of progress made..

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22. The method of claim 21 further comprising a step for, after all node servers have completed a job and have reported to the base server, the base server closing the associated job object and updating the client content provider associated with the job object.

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23. The method of claim 21 further comprising a step for the base server tracking completion of the job by the matrix of node servers, and if the job is not completed by all node servers within a set time, the base server querying the node server or servers failing to complete.

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24. The method of claim 23 further comprising a step for the base server, receiving no response from a node server, attempting to repair the node server not responding.